



Rhode Island Emergency Management Advisory Council

**June 12, 2012
10:00 AM**

RI Emergency Management Agency
645 New London Avenue
Cranston, Rhode Island

MEETING MINUTES

Attendance

Lt. Governor Elizabeth H. Roberts
MG Kevin R. McBride
Ed Johnson
Jack Chartier
Peter Gaynor
John Shealy
Joe McCooey
Robert Sturdahl
Chris Daniel
Annemarie Beardsworth
Joe Arsenault
Jim Ball
James Lanni
Shad Ahmed
Erin Lambie
Arthur Bovis
Dawn Lewis
Jeff Stevens
Alysia Mihalakos
Jeff Hatcher
Donna DiMichele
Steven Florio
Susan Earley
Leo Messier
Larry Grimaldi
Ray Laprad

Sheyda Bautista-Saeyan
Vlad Ibarra

I. Call to Order Lt. Governor Elizabeth Roberts

Chair Roberts discussed her involvement with the Regional Sheltering Outreach Forums to Mayors and Town Administrators with Major General McBride and Elizabeth McDonald-American Red Cross (ARC) at the five Local Emergency Planning Committees: Cumberland, Providence, Warwick, Middletown and Chariho and the positive response from their leadership. There will be a follow up meeting the MG McBride and the ARC to assess next steps.

The chair went on to provide an update on three pieces of legislation that the Council was monitoring in May. These included:

- **S 2606 Protection from Price Gouging During Emergencies** was placed on the Senate Calendar (06.06.12) and the Senate passed the Sub A and the House version was placed on the calendar for today 06.12.12 at 2 p.m.
- **H 7514** (This legislation would add two members to EMAC) and
- **H 7446** (access fund to create an emergency communication program for the deaf and hard-of-hearing) were held for further study.

Lastly, the chair discussed several EMAC related events since our last meeting including:

- On June 1, FEMA held a Video Teleconference with Secretary of Homeland Security Janet Napolitano, FEMA Administrator Craig Fugate and individuals from the National Hurricane Center in Florida to continue collaborative efforts among states and to ensure engagement prior to Hurricane season.
- On June 6, Chair Roberts and RIEMA Director Theresa Murray participated in the National Level Exercise (NLE). The NLE is part of a series of congressionally mandated preparedness exercises designed to educate and prepare participants for potential catastrophic events. Chair Roberts highlighted Rhode Island's prominent role in the country by having the first Cyber Disruption Team as well as an Annex to our Emergency Operations Manual.
- On June 7, the chair addressed the annual RIEMA Hurricane Conference and was pleased with the turnout and the topics discussed as they addressed important concerns.

II. Approval of Minutes from May 8, 2012

The minutes were unanimously approved.

III. Rhode Island Emergency Management Agency Update

MG McBride provided a brief overview of the Tabletop Exercise Vigilant Guard (VG). VG will focus on training first responders to state and national level decision-makers on a Category III hurricane scenario. Scenarios will range from Homeland Security to Defense Support of Civil Authorities.

MG McBride went on to discuss the NLE which will examine the nation's ability to coordinate and implement prevention, preparedness, response and recovery plans and capabilities pertaining to a significant cyber event or a series of events.

RIEMA Deputy Director Ed Johnson, discussed the RI Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC) Conference and stressed how more states are dealing with budget shortfalls and cuts to programs. The Deputy also highlighted Providence Emergency Management Agency's (PEMA) leadership under Pete Gaynor to engage with private partners in Operation SMART Exit. Operation SMART Exit a full-scale exercise to assess the evacuation of ten commercial buildings in Downtown Providence. PEMA is conducting the event to increase the preparedness of businesses in the largest high-rise buildings and to increase awareness of the residents and businesses in the City.

IV. Credentialing of First Responders in Rhode Island

Peter Fucci, President Safer Institute

Chris Daniel, Vice President Safer Institute

Chair Roberts introduced Christopher Daniel Vice President of the Safer Institute - a Providence based nonprofit that serves as an innovation center for governmental, public safety, public health and NGO technology and policy where he leads operations and business development.

Mr. Daniel has over 19 years of experience and has worked in more than 20 countries coordinating with NGOs, governments and multi-lateral organizations designing and leading programs.

The presentation revolved around the security implications in the aftermath of hurricanes Katrina and Rita and the inability of officials to easily distinguish credible participants from impostors exposing cracks in the patchwork system for verifying the credentials and qualifications of response professionals. Homeland Security Presidential Directive 12 addressed these gaps by demanding interoperable electronic IDs to use both physical and logical access.

The Rhode Island Emergency Management Agency (RIEMA) will be the coordinating agency in efforts towards implementation and sponsorship of First Responder Accreditation Credentials (FRAC) to the State.

Identity Management Rhode Island (IMRI) is a program coordinated by RIEMA to institute Personal Identity Verification – Interoperable (PIV-I) technology for first responders throughout the State. The PIV-I card is the most secure and up-to-date version of a FRAC card. The FRAC card is the size of a credit card that meets the US Government's PIV specifications. The PIV-I initiative allows non-federal organizations to issue high security employee credentials that meet the stringent standards established by the U.S. government to increase the security of its systems and facilities. PIV-I cards meet the technical and issuing security standards set by the government. For further inquiries about the presentation please contact Ray Laprad (RIEMA) at 401.946.9996 and or Safer Institute at 888.484.8097 and/or www.saferinstitute.org.

V. New Business, Member Comments, Suggestions

Chair Roberts opened the floor up for new businesses; Joe Arsenault was pleased to inform the membership that the Community College of Rhode Island has currently thirty students enrolled in the Associates of Science and thirty more in their Certificate Program.

The Chair informed members that the next meeting will take place on August 7th Domestic Preparedness Subcommittee Reports.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:45 a.m.